

Town of Catherine
Catherine
Ellis County
Kansas

HABS No. KS-38

HABS
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PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

STATE KANSAS	COUNTY ELLIS	TOWN OR VICINITY CATHERINE
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) TOWN OF CATHERINE		HABS NO. KS-38
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES)		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE)		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE)		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS)		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE)		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES		
PRESENT CONOITION AND USE		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE SEE ATTACHED SHEETS FOR DESCRIPTIONS OF THE STRUCTURES.		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY AND NOMINATION FORM, BY ALFRED E. ROHR, JUNE 2, 1970. PHOTO IDENTIFICATION SHEET BY WILLIAM EDMUND BARRETT, 1977. KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, HISTORIC SITES SURVEY, HISTORIC BUILDING INVENTORY FORM, AUGUST 12, 19		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION SUSAN McCOWN, HISTORIAN, HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY		DATE 5/12/80

St. Catherine's Church:

This Gothic style church was built circa 1890 to serve the religious needs of the Roman Catholics of German-Russian descent. It measures 60'-6" x 40' and is two stories high. The exterior walls are rough-textured limestone which was quarried at the farm of Jacob Staab, and from the Steineberg, a hill one mile south of the town. Its exterior features include pointed corners, and a flat octagonal steeple (originally pointed) on the front elevation. The openings have pointed Gothic arches. There are three altars in the church. The interior is richly decorated in the Gothic style, and its features include vaulted ceilings with pendants. Modern heating equipment replaced coal stoves in 1912. An addition, measuring 24' x 9', was built at the north side of the church in 1917. Electricity was installed in the church, replacing original kerosene and gas lamps in 1925. A small tower over the sanctuary was removed in 1936.

St. Catherine's Schule:

The parochial school building was constructed in 1902 to serve the education needs of the Roman Catholic schoolchildren of German-Russian descent. The two-story, vernacular Gothic building is constructed of native limestone, and measures 70' x 40'. A large gable roof shelters the church, with smaller steep-pitched gable roofs with decorative bargeboards on the sides. A bracketed cornice is underneath the entire roof. This school building is now part of the public school system.

St. John Street Houses:

The houses, built circa early 20th century, were occupied by persons of German-Russian descent. The house at right is stone, and the house at left is clapboard. (See the photo, HABS No. KS-38-3). The most distinctive architectural features are the two steep-pitched gable roofs on the front elevation of each house.

Two Stone Houses: the John Schmidt House and the Koerner House

The John Schmidt House, located on the intersection of St. Catherine and St. Leo Streets, is an example of vernacular architecture, with the use of an unusual high pitch hipped roof with truncated gables and dressed stone segmental arches over the openings. The house measures 34'-3" x 51' and is two stories high. Both the foundation and the walls are rough-textured stone. The gable ends are decorated with fish scale siding, except the east end which has asphalt siding. An enclosed porch is supported by bracketed columns. The house has been occupied by the Schmidt family since its construction. Their descendant, John Schmidt, for whom the house is named, was among the original German-Russian immigrants who settled in Ellis County in 1876.

The Koerner House was built circa 1886, and was occupied by the persons of German-Russian immigrants who settled in Ellis County in 1876. The vernacular style house is rectangular in shape. The exterior walls are rough-textured stone. Dressed stone segmental arches are over the openings. Gabled dormers sit on the hipped roof.